



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **LINCOLN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PRODUCING AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – A 58-year-old man who took pornographic photos of a minor child pleaded guilty to producing and possessing child pornography, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Rodger A. Heaton, U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that Howard D. Pinkley, of 929 Broadway Street, Lincoln, Ill., entered guilty pleas yesterday to charges he produced and possessed child pornography.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Childress presented the factual basis for the plea during a court appearance Monday afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge Byron Cudmore. Mr. Childress stated that law enforcement agents were notified Nov. 9, 2005, of pornographic photos of an unidentified child that were developed at a processing facility in Crawfordsville, Ind., as part of an order placed by Pinkley at a Wal-Mart in Lincoln. Mr. Childress further stated that from November 2003 through Nov. 10, 2005, Pinkley enticed a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct to produce visual depictions, and that he possessed books, videotapes, computer images and other materials containing three or more images of child pornography.

Sentencing is scheduled for June 2 before U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott. The offense of production of child pornography carries a mandatory minimum of 15 years to 30 years in prison; possession of child pornography carries a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

“We’ve made it an agency priority to stop sexual predators from abusing and exploiting innocent children,” said Elissa A. Brown, special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Chicago. “ICE is committed to protecting those who cannot protect themselves, and the victims of child sexual predators are the top of that list.”

This case falls under ICE's nationwide initiative known as [Operation Predator](#). Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 6,800 individuals arrested nationwide, including more than 343 in Illinois.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Childress.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*